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*The Physical Basis of Civilization.* By T. W. HEINEMAN.

Chicago: Forbes & Company, 1908. Pp. 241. \$1.25.

This book is an essay on the biological foundations of human culture. It deals, therefore, with important problems on the biological side of sociology. The general trend of the book is indicated by its two sub-titles: "Psychic and Economic Results of Man's Physical Uprightness," "A Demonstration that Two Small Anatomical Modifications Determined Physical, Mental, Moral, Economic, Social, and Political Conditions." The two small anatomical modifications in question, to which such tremendous consequences are attributed, are a variation in the form of the entocuneiform bone in the foot (which supports the big toe) and a shifting of the occipital foramen magnum to a position a little back of the center of the base of the skull. To these two anatomical modifications our author attributes the erect posture of man, and upon the erect posture, he endeavors to show, depend the great typical institutions of human society.

The book is almost wholly deductive in its method, and illustrates both the merits and the defects of dealing with social problems through pure deduction from the antecedent sciences. Our author traces everything distinctive in human society, either directly or indirectly, to man's upright position. For example, in order to prove that the family as a form of association antedated the clan and the tribe, he relies, not upon the evidence afforded by primitive peoples, but upon the "unavoidable consequences" of the upright posture of the human race (p. 131). This is not an unfair example of the author's reasoning; and the reasoning, moreover, is often obscured by a prolix style and needless repetitions. Again, no authorities are cited for the numerous scientific facts and principles stated. On the whole, however, the author seems to have a good grasp of biological facts and principles; it is only on the side of ethnographic and sociological facts that he is weak.

In spite of its many defects from the standpoint of scientific method, the book should not be ignored by sociologists. It is rich in suggestions on the biological side of sociology. There are especially suggestive chapters on the origin of the family, the home, monogamic marriage, and the economic dependence of woman, showing that these human institutions are not mere social conventions due to happy historical accidents, but, as all careful students of

the family know, are rooted in the biological conditions under which the race has lived in the past and must continue to live in the future. To those who are interested in tracing out the biological roots of human institutions, especially of the family, therefore, the book is to be commended as well worth reading.

CHARLES A. ELLWOOD

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

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*Heredity and Selection in Sociology.* By GEORGE CHATTERTON-HILL. London: Adam & Charles Black; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1907. Pp. xxx+571. \$4.50 net.

This is a remarkable book, in not the best sense of the word. After an analysis of the current biological theories in Part I, in which he adheres mainly to Weismann, the author in Part II gives statistics showing the increase in suicide, insanity, and syphilis (but gives no attention to crime) and in Part III, after rejecting liberalism, socialism, and science as social remedies, passes inconsequently to the conclusion that religion is the only force which can accomplish the integration of society. I say inconsequent because the whole argument in Parts I and II had been in the way of indicating that a society progresses only on the basis of the rigid selection through conflict of the fittest which is practiced in nature, and his conclusions by no means fit on to his arguments. Having no first-hand information, the author could justify himself in the publication of such a work only by logical and constructive manipulation of his materials, and he has not done this. The book will, however, interest those who were interested in Mr. Kidd's *Social Evolution*.

WM. I. THOMAS

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*Die Arbeiterversicherung in Australien und Neu-Seeland.* Bearbeitet von PROF. DR. ALFRED MANES. Heft XVIII, "Die Arbeiter-Versicherung im Auslande," edited by DR. ZACHER. Pp. 81+90. Berlin: A. Froschel, 1908.

The most recent addition to the series of Dr. Zacher on social insurance brings to us the story of developments in the newest new world. After introductory paragraphs on the general tendencies of life and of legislation, Dr. Manes gives a full treatment to the